



breaking news

www.bangkokpost.com



Home General News Business Sports Outlook IT Database Horizons Motoring RealTime Perspective



News
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General News Business Sports Outlook Your Money Learning Post IT (Database) Horizons Motoring RealTime Perspective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Weather weather.go.th
Classified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto Jobs Education Property Sales Service
Web Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archives English Lessons Forum Hotel Bookings Poll Recent Editions Restaurant Reviews Restaurant Search SMS
Advertising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media kit online
Subscribe Now!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangkok Post Post Today Student Weekly
Contact Us
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webmaster Advertising
About Us
Work For Us

BREAKING NEWS

US turns over tsunami alert buoy

Phuket (dpa) - The US government on Friday gave Thailand a \$450,000 (about 16 million baht) buoy to be deployed in the Indian Ocean as the first step in establishing an tsunami early-warning system for the region that was devastated by tidal waves two years ago.

"With the launching of this buoy, we're taking a big step forward in better protecting hundreds of millions of people living across the Indian Ocean," Ralph Boyce, US ambassador to Thailand, said at a ceremony in Phuket marking the launch of the first Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) II station between the Thai island, 650 kilometres south of Bangkok, and Sri Lanka.

DART II is the same system deployed in the Pacific Ocean to help detect tsunamis for Pacific-rim countries.

No such early-warning system was in place in the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004, when a magnitude-9 earthquake off the western coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra caused a tsunami that the United Nations said claimed more than 230,000 lives and affected 12 countries. The hardest hit were Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

Nearly two years after the disaster, a tsunami early-warning system for the region is finally being launched.

"The buoy which we launch today will serve as the first fully operational deep-ocean tsunami-detection station in the Indian Ocean," Boyce said.

The United States plans to launch similar stations off the coast of Sumatra and Java in 2007, he added.

The buoys, placed miles offshore, are to provide information on wave activities that is to both save lives and avoid false alarms.

Although meteorologists in Asia had received advance warnings of the 2004 tsunami, there was no system in place to confirm the dangers or a communications network to relay the message to thousands of Thais and foreign tourists who were vacationing at Thailand's famed beach resorts on the Andaman Sea.

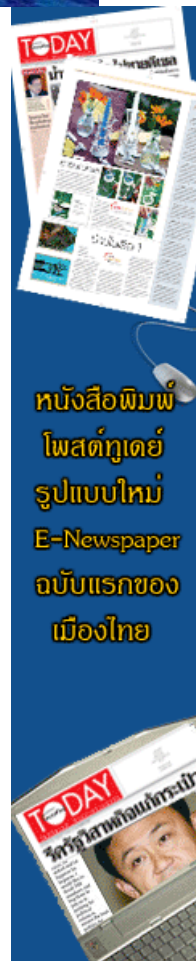
More than 5,000 people died in the tsunami in Thailand, half of them foreigners.

"There is no better way to honour all those who perished in the 2004 tsunami than to make a concrete effort to help prevent or mitigate such a disaster," said Thai Foreign minister Nitya Pibulsonggram, who attended the Phuket buoy-launching ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, Boyce cut a ribbon, officially launching the vessel that is to deploy the buoy in the next few days.

Although the United States has granted Thailand the buoy, the Thai government will be responsible for maintaining it.

Smith Thammararoj, head of Thailand's Tsunami Detection Centre, said maintenance would cost 100 million baht (2.7 million dollars) over two years.

"Other countries will eventually have to chip in for these costs," Smith told



หนังสือพิมพ์
โพสต์ทูเดย์
รูปแบบใหม่
E-Newspaper
ฉบับแรกของ
เมืองไทย



ตั้งแต่ 16 ตุลาคม 2549
ถึง 26 มกราคม 2550



ตั้งแต่ 16 ตุลาคม 2549
ถึง 26 มกราคม 2550



GURU
Lifestyle
Update your life.
Read Guru Magazine
Every Friday in the
Bangkok Post
the magazine
Your Regular Dose of
FASHION AND FEATURES
NOW OUT ON 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY
ALLIED
PRINTERS
SMS News Service

Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa. "It cannot be the sole responsibility of the Thai government."

[Ads by Google](#)

[Advertise on this site](#)

[University of California](#)

Int'l Relations Masters Degree International Politics track
irps.ucsd.edu

[Masters of Public Health](#)

by distance learning from LSHTM Europe's school of public health
www.londonexternal.ac.uk/health

[Your own Forest in Panama](#)

Invest in Sustainable Forestry up to 11 % IRR, titled land
www.futuroforestal.com

[Voluntary Carbon Offsets](#)

Detailed Analysis of Supply & Demand of Voluntary Carbon Offsets
www.icfi.com/carbon-offsets



[PRINT THIS](#)



[EMAIL THIS](#)



[BACK TO TOP](#)

© Copyright The Post Publishing Public Co., Ltd. 2006

Privacy Policy

Comments to: Webmaster

Advertising enquiries to: Internet Marketing

Printed display ad enquiries to: Display Ads

Full contact details: Contact us